



Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education

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(Staff from North Central Association/AdvancED stand with Durrell Dwane Robinson, recipient of the 'Distinguished Educator Award for Excellence in Diné Education' on April 18th, 2011 at a luncheon held at Quality Inn, Window Rock, Arizona.)

Window Rock, Arizona--North Central Association/AdvancED awarded Durrell Dwane Robinson, Executive Director/Principal at Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory, Inc. the '*Distinguished Educator Award for Excellence in Diné Education*' on Monday April 18th, 2011. Mr. Robinson has been working with the Navajo people for over 44 years and has been an educator for 49 years.

D. Dwane graduated from Farmington High School, Farmington, New Mexico in 1951 and went on to attend Oklahoma Christian College (now University) and graduated in 1964 with a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. A two year stint in Oklahoma, 1964-1966, he taught Elementary school. In 1968 he moved back to the Navajo Nation.

D. Dwane began his teaching career on the Navajo Nation in Crownpoint, New Mexico with the B.I.A. as a middle school teacher. He moved onto Dziłth na o dith hle Community school in 1971 as Principal and retired from Dziłth na o dith hle in May of 2001.

During his time at Dziłth na o dith hle, in 1987, he received the National Educational Excellence Award presented by the United States Department of Education. At that time there had not been a B.I.A. school ever to receive such an honor.

In April 1996, Mr. Robinson received the Nation Principal of the Year Award from the Office of Indian Education Programs, B.I.A., Washington, DC. In 1999 Huerfano Dormitory, which Mr. Robinson was also principal at, was approved to go Grant under the provisions of PL 100-297. Huerfano Dormitory name was now changed to Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory, Inc.

In the past seven (7) years, Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory has made AYP (Adequate Year Progress). The one year they did not “we took the post test but not the pre test, which New Mexico changed and we were counted as not meeting the standards.”

Delores McKerry, NCA/AdvancED Director and Program Manager, said “This award isn’t given every year. But this year we wanted to show the reflection of excellence in education that Dwane has brought. He has a successful track record in education. The No Child Left Behind Act requires schools to be accredited and he is the one that led the way for Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory to be accredited.”

North Central Association/AdvancED accredits schools on the Navajo Nation. They are one of 11 programs within the Department of Diné Education.

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